

THE CONNECTICUT COALITION FOR SMALLER MANUFACTURERS

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Opposing House Bill 5460 An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings

Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employees

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Good afternoon Senator Prague, Representative Zelaski and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. My name is Randy Collins and I am here today on behalf of the Connecticut Coalition for Smaller Manufacturers (CCSM). CCSM is comprised of the Smaller Manufacturer's Association of Waterbury (SMA), the New Haven Manufacturer's Association (NHMA) and METal of Bridgeport and collectively represents over 300 companies and over 10,000 employees.

CCSM is strongly opposed to Raised House Bill 5460: AAC Captive Audience Meetings. HB 5460 represents a serious infringement of the rights of employers to hold meetings and require employee attendance on matters that may impact both the company and its employees. CCSM opposes HB 5460 as it will further raise the already high cost of doing business in Connecticut. CCSM believes that it is vital that companies have the ability to engage in open communication with their employees on various matters without fear of being exposed to costly and frivolous lawsuits that may result by violating the restrictions imposed by HB 5460 specifically the language contained in Sec. 1. (b) and Sec. 1. (d):

HB 5460 will diminish the ability of employers to inform their employees of potentially harmful legislation that may have a direct impact on their company and/or their jobs and, raising their awareness of the importance of their active participation in the legislative process. CCSM also believes that HB 5460 would be preempted by the National Labor Relations Act by interfering with an employers' freedom of speech.

In these difficult economic times many businesses within CCSM are struggling to remain viable and maintain its workforce, HB 5460 will only make that struggle harder. Connecticut is already seen by many as a state that has an anti-business, anti-jobs reputation and HB 5460 will only further confirm that belief.

Please reject HB 5460 AAC Captive Audience Meetings.